

	<b>INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL</b>	
	<b>Chapter 10:</b> Adoption	<b>Effective Date:</b> August 1, 2008
	<b>Section 10:</b> Resource Parent Adoption	<b>Version:</b> 1

<b>POLICY</b>	<b>OLD POLICY: 706.2</b>
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The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has established the following guidelines for consideration of requests by resource parent (s) to adopt a child in their care.

1. Efforts to reunite the child with either parent have not been successful;
2. The child has lived in the home for six (6) continuous months or longer; and
3. The permanency plan is adoption and there is a significant emotional attachment between the child and the resource parent (s) as assessed by a counselor, therapist or other professional specializing in attachment.

#### Code References

N/A

<b>PROCEDURE</b>
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The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Conduct an agency staffing of all cases in which the resource parent (s) have expressed a desire to adopt a child in their care.
2. Review the requesting family's current homestudy and conduct the required background checks.
3. Ensure that the preadoptive resource family has an opportunity to review the child's file, summary, and the medical history summary for the child.
4. Assure that the resource family has access to pre and post adoption services to assist in the transition from foster home to adoptive home;
5. Explain to the resource parent (s) and the child if applicable what needs to be done to proceed with the adoption process; and
6. Determine if the child is eligible for any adoption assistance at the point the family has been established as a pre-adoptive home. See policy 15.1 Adoption Assistance Eligibility
  - If the family cannot adopt the child without assistance, determine the maximum amount that the preadoptive resource family can receive in assistance if the family is eligible.
    - 75% of the per diem that the family is receiving on behalf of the child at the time of determining eligibility
    - Negotiate with the family up to that amount what the family needs to incorporate the child into the home.
  - If the family is eligible, complete the adoption assistance application form (SF2974/CW3310).

The Supervisor will:

1. Attend the staffing and provide input as necessary;

2. Assure that all required information is contained in the child's case file; and
3. Ensure that the FCM has completed all required checks in a timely manner.

<b>PRACTICE GUIDANCE</b>
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N/A

<b>FORMS AND TOOLS</b>
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N/A

<b>RELATED INFORMATION</b>
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**Changes in Dynamics when a Foster Parent Adopts**

When foster parents adopt a child(ren) placed with them on a foster care basis and for whom they have provided a substitute family for a planned period of time, new dynamics develop. Most importantly, there is a shift in roles and role expectations relative to the foster/adoptive family. That shift is felt primarily by the foster parents but definitely affects the child. With life experiences and foster care training and knowledge in hand, foster/adoptive parents perceive clear distinctions between foster care and adoption.

Adoption means that foster parents:

1. Are making a commitment to provide permanency for the child; and
2. No longer share decision making responsibility and liability with the agency or court.

They are solely responsible, legally and financially, for the total parenting, care, growth and development of the child. This includes seeing that the long-term developmental, therapeutic, social, medical, educational and emotional needs of the child are met.